

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-12 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 13-24 are pending. Claim 13 has been amended to advance prosecution. Support for the amendment is believed to be found, for example, at page 3, lines 4-5 of the specification.

The Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 13-24 is, to the extent not obviated by the above, traversed. The Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would, after reviewing the present application, be able to practice the claimed invention, without undue experimentation. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection of claims 13-24 are requested.

The Section 102 rejection of claims 13-24 over Mougin (U.S. Patent No. 5,851,517), is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested in view of the following distinguishing comments.

The Applicants believe the Examiner has relied on the cited patent for the teaching of isopropyl palmitate in the facial gel of, for example, Example 13 at column 11 of the cited patent. The Applicants submit however that isopropyl palmitate and similar compounds are used in the cited document as part of a non-aqueous medium to protect the composition containing a dispersion of surface stabilized polymeric particles. The isopropyl palmitate is not described in the cited patent as being the active ingredient which provides the desired technical effect of the cited patent. Specifically, the Applicants believe the subject of the cited patent is to provide for the use of the particle dispersion for the preparation of the cosmetic or pharmaceutical compositions. The purpose of the cited patent is not to describe the use of a composition of a fatty

substance free of carbohydrate units as recited in the presently claimed invention. The Applicants submit therefore that the presently claimed method is not taught by the cited patent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection are requested.

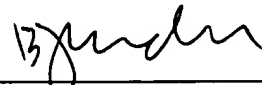
Similarly, the Section 102 rejection of claims 13-24 over Santor (U.S. Patent No. 6,524,594), is traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of rejection are requested as the presently claimed method of reducing the adhesion of microorganisms to the surface of the skin and/or the mucous membranes is not specifically or inherently taught by the cited patent.

The claims are submitted as being in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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